



FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Headquarters 388th Fighter Wing (ACC)

Office of Public Affairs

Hill AFB, UT 84056-5017

www.388fw.acc.af.mil

4th Fighter Squadron

The 4th Fighter Squadron is one of two fighter squadrons assigned to the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The unit operates the F-16CM aircraft equipped with the Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod and the Harm Targeting System Pod.

Mission

The 4th FS conducts flying operations to maintain combat readiness of a 24-aircraft F-16CM squadron.

It prepares to deploy worldwide to conduct day and night air-superiority and precision-strike sorties employing laser-guided and inertially aided munitions during both contingencies and combat operations

Personnel and Resources

Approximately 40 personnel are assigned to the squadron. Equipment includes 24 F-16s, each worth about \$36 million.

The 4th FS is a subordinate unit of the 388th Operations Group.

History

The 4th Pursuit Squadron (Interceptor) was activated at Selfridge Field, Mich., Jan. 15, 1941, and moved to several U.S. bases before relocating to Northern Ireland in 1942.

For the next three years, until its inactivation in November 1945, the 4th PS traveled between 13 bases in Europe and North Africa. During World War II, the squadron flew P-39 Air Cobras, P-40 Warhawks, British Spitfires and P-51 Mustangs.

After the 4th PS's inactivation it was sent to Okinawa, Japan.

It was there that the squadron adopted the Fuujin, the Okinawan god of wind, as its emblem after half of its combat aircraft were destroyed by a freak windstorm.

The Fuujins remained in Okinawa flying the F-82 Twin Mustang from 1950 to 1952 and F-94 Starfire from 1951 to 1954. There they provided air defense of the Ryukyu Islands during the Korean War.

The 4th FS moved to Misawa Air Base, Japan, where squadron members flew F-86 Sabres and F-102 Delta Daggers until 1965. During that period, the unit participated in air defense of Japan; trained pilots of the



Japanese Self-Defense Forces, the Republic of Korea and the Royal Thai Air Force; and flew combat missions over Korea and Vietnam.

In June 1965, the 4th FS moved to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and was renamed the 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron, becoming the fourth Air Force fighter squadron trained in the F-4 Phantom IIs.

During July 1967, squadron aircraft, crews and maintenance troops deployed to Udon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, where they were designated as the 435th Tactical Fighter Squadron and immediately began combat operations. The 4th began reconstitution at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

In April 1969, the Fightin' Fuujins deployed to Da Nang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam and flew escort missions as part of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. Transferring to Udon Royal Thai Air Base, in mid-1972, squadron aircrews flew air superiority missions over Vietnam.

The squadron attained the U.S. Air Force's last Southeast Asia aerial victory, downing a MiG-21, Jan. 8, 1973. The 4th TFS downed four enemy aircraft in combat over Vietnam.

For the next two years, the Fuujins remained at Udon Royal Thai Air Base, flying cover for evacuations of Phnom Pehn, Cambodia and Saigon, Republic of Vietnam.

The squadron performed strike missions in support of a recovery operation for the U.S.S. Mayaguez, a merchant freighter captured by Cambodian Khmer Rouge guerillas in May 1975.

In December 1975, the 4th TFS moved to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and formed the initial cadre of the relocation of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing flying the F-4D Phantom II's.

In March 1980, the Fuujins began conversion to the F-16A Fighting Falcon as the Air Force's first operational F-16 tactical fighter squadron.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the 4th found themselves facing armed opponents for the first time since Vietnam as they deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield.

Their deployment took 16 hours non-stop with 10 aerial refuelings (five at night). This set the record for longest non-stop F-16 flight.

Once Operation Desert Storm began, the Fightin' Fuujins raised a dust storm of their own. Pilots dropped more than 2,000 tons of conventional munitions on strategic and tactical targets in Iraq and Kuwait during more than 1,000 daytime combat sorties. While two of their aircraft were damaged by enemy fire, none were lost in combat.

The unit returned to the desert in June 1995, when they deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Operation Southern Watch. This was the first time the Air Force split a unit deployed for Operation Southern Watch.

In August 2002 the 4th transferred all maintenance personnel to the newly established 388th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as part of the wing reorganization.

In January 2006, when they deployed to Balad AB, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The 4th supported over 2,500 air strike requests and logged 5,900 combat hours flying day/night non-traditional intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions and close air support missions. The 4th was the first operational F-16 squadron fully equipped with ROVER video downlink targeting pods.

The 4th returned Balad AB in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM August 2007 through January 2008

The squadron again deployed and flew combat operations out of Balad, January 2009 through May 2009

In 2010, the 4 FS deployed and carried out combat operations from Bagram AB, Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

(Current as of November 2013)

4th Fighter Squadron highlights

- Credited for the Air Force's last aerial victory in Southeast Asia, Jan. 8, 1973
- Began conversion to the F-16A as the Air Force's first operational tactical fighter squadron, March 1980
- Deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Storm – August 1990. Pilots dropped more than 2,000 tons of conventional munitions during more than 1,000 combat sorties.
- Deployed to two split locations making this the first time the Air Force has tried this for Operation Southern Watch, 1995
- Conducted largest three-day surge ever recorded for an 18 aircraft F-16 unit – 320 sorties, June 11-13, 1996
- Deployed 12 F-16s and 134 personnel to Incirlick AB, Turkey to help enforce the northern no-fly zone over Iraq in support of Operation Northern Watch- August 1998
- Deployed to Southwest Asia, as part of AEF 3, to support Operation Southern Watch- December 1999
- Participated in Maple Flag, Cold Lake, Canada, June 1-30, 2000
- Transferred all maintenance personnel to the newly established 388th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as part of the wing reorganization in August 2002.
- Participated in Air Warrior I, Nellis AFB, NV, November 2003
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- Flew sorties and maintained 24 hour alert status in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE for two weeks in September 2004.
- Deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2006 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
- Deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2007 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
- Deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2009 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM
- Deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in 2010 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM